

Promises... Promises

The Architect and the Artist



Every new year we make promises (resolutions) we often don't keep. Let's focus this month on the One who always keeps His promises.

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| Day 1 – Deuteronomy 26:18-19 | Day 17 – Luke 18:25-30 |
| Day 2 – Joshua 21:43-45 | Day 18 – John 3:12-15 |
| Day 3 – 1 Kings 8:56-58 | Day 19 – John 6:37-40 |
| Day 4 – Psalm 37:39-40 | Day 20 – John 14:1-3 |
| Day 5 – Psalm 84:10-11 | Day 21 – John 14:12-14 |
| Day 6 – Proverbs 3:9-10 | Day 22 – Romans 4:19-21 |
| Day 7 – Proverbs 11:25, 22:9, 28:27 | Day 23 – Romans 10:9-11 |
| Day 8 – Isaiah 46:3-4 | Day 24 – 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| Day 9 – Isaiah 46:8-11 | Day 25 – 2 Corinthians 1:19-20 |
| Day 10 – Isaiah 49:25-26 | Day 26 – Ephesians 6:1-3 |
| Day 11 – Daniel 12:1-2 | Day 27 – Philippians 1:3-6 |
| Day 12 – Malachi 3:2-3 | Day 28 – 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 |
| Day 13 – Malachi 3:6 and 10 | Day 29 – Hebrews 10:22-23 |
| Day 14 – Matthew 6:31-34 | Day 30 – 2 Peter 1:3-4 |
| Day 15 – Matthew 11:28-30 | Day 31 – Revelation 21:4-6 |
| Day 16 – Luke 6:37-38 | |

Questions to Ask: How faithful is God in following through? What are some of the promises He makes to us? How do we know that He fulfills His promises? What is His "track record" when it comes to completing what He says He will do?

Optional Activity: As you copy these verses, list His promises.

Rejected

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Rejection is one of the most painful emotional experiences for human beings. Let's first take a look through the eyes of Joseph and his relationship with his brothers, and then at the life of Christ, to see how to handle rejection.

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| Day 1 – Genesis 37:1-4 | Day 17 – Mark 6:2-4 |
| Day 2 – Genesis 37:5-8 | Day 18 – Luke 6:22-23 |
| Day 3 – Genesis 37:9-11 | Day 19 – John 1:9-12 |
| Day 4 – Genesis 37:12-17 | Day 20 – John 15:18-20 |
| Day 5 – Genesis 37:18-21 | Day 21 – John 15:23-25 |
| Day 6 – Genesis 37:22-24 | Day 22 – Romans 8:31-33 |
| Day 7 – Genesis 37:25-28 | Day 23 – Romans 8:34-36 |
| Day 8 – Genesis 37:29-34 | Day 24 – Romans 8:37-39 |
| Day 9 – Genesis 50:18-20 | Day 25 – 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 |
| Day 10 – Psalm 27:3-5 and 10 | Day 26 – Hebrews 12:1-3 |
| Day 11 – Psalm 41:7-10 | Day 27 – 1 Peter 2:4-6 |
| Day 12 – Psalm 41:11-13 | Day 28 – 1 Peter 2:21-23 |
| Day 13 – Psalm 66:16-20 | Day 29 – Isaiah 53:1-3 |
| Day 14 – Isaiah 41:10-13 | |
| Day 15 – Isaiah 49:15-16 | |
| Day 16 – Lamentations 3:31-33 | |

Questions to Ask: What caused the rejection of Joseph? What was Joseph's final analysis of what happened to him? What can we learn about rejection from the life of Christ? How do we overcome rejection?

He is Risen!

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This month let's write through the last few days of Jesus' life before His death and resurrection.

Day 1 – Isaiah 53:1-3
Day 2 – Isaiah 53:4-6
Day 3 – Isaiah 53:7-8
Day 4 – Isaiah 53:9-10
Day 5 – Isaiah 53:11-12
Day 6 – Luke 22:1-6
Day 7 – Luke 22:7-10
Day 8 – Luke 22:11-13
Day 9 – Luke 22:14-18
Day 10 – Luke 22:19-23
Day 11 – Luke 22:31-34
Day 12 – Luke 22:47-49
Day 13 – Luke 22:50-53
Day 14 – Luke 22:54-57
Day 15 – Luke 22:58-62
Day 16 – Luke 23:1-5

Day 17 – Luke 23:6-10
Day 18 – Luke 23:11-17
Day 19 – Luke 23:18-21
Day 20 – Luke 23:22-25
Day 21 – Luke 23:26-27
Day 22 – Luke 23:28-31
Day 23 – Luke 23:32-34
Day 24 – Luke 23:35-38
Day 25 – Luke 23:39-43
Day 26 – Luke 23:44-46
Day 27 – Luke 23:47-49
Day 28 – Luke 23:50-52
Day 29 – Luke 23:53-56
Day 30 – Luke 24:1-5
Day 31 – Luke 24:6-12

Questions to Ask: What does Christ endure (look beyond the obvious to things like shame and loss)? What is seen in His character as He suffers? How does He interact with others during this final week?

Such a Fool!

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We have all done it ... played the fool. We have also all been on the receiving end of foolish behavior. This month let's explore what makes a fool.

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| Day 1 – Psalm 53:1-3 | Day 17 – Ecclesiastes 7:8-10 |
| Day 2 – Proverbs 1:5-7 | Day 18 – Ecclesiastes 10:12-15 |
| Day 3 – Proverbs 3:13-18 | Day 19 – Matthew 7:24-27 |
| Day 4 – Proverbs 9:7-9 | Day 20 – Mark 7:20-23 |
| Day 5 – Proverbs 9:10-12 | Day 21 – Luke 11:37-40 |
| Day 6 – Proverbs 10:18-21 | Day 22 – Luke 12:16-21 |
| Day 7 – Proverbs 11:12, 12:16, 15:7,
17:28 | Day 23 – 1 Corinthians 1:18-20 |
| Day 8 – Proverbs 13:18-20 | Day 24 – 1 Corinthians 1:21-25 |
| Day 9 – Proverbs 14:1-3 | Day 25 – 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 |
| Day 10 – Proverbs 14:7-9 | Day 26 – Ephesians 5:15-17 |
| Day 11 – Proverbs 18:2-3 and 6-7 | Day 27 – James 1:5-8 |
| Day 12 – Proverbs 18:13 and 29:20 | Day 28 – James 3:13-14 |
| Day 13 – Proverbs 24:3-7 | Day 29 – James 3:15-16 |
| Day 14 – Proverbs 26:3-7 | Day 30 – James 3:17-18 |
| Day 15 – Proverbs 26:8-12 | |
| Day 16 – Proverbs 28:25-26 | |

Questions to Ask: What are the behaviors of a fool? What is the opposite of foolishness? What is the condition of a fool's heart?

Heroes of the Bible

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What makes heroes of the faith? Is it the daring acts they perform? Or the obstacles they overcome? Or could it be mere obedience to the God they love?

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| Day 1 – Genesis 5:21-24 | Day 17 – Isaiah 6:1-5 |
| Day 2 – Genesis 6:9-13 | Day 18 – Jeremiah 1:4-9 |
| Day 3 – Genesis 6:14-18 | Day 19 – Daniel 6:7, 10-11 and 13 |
| Day 4 – Genesis 6:19-22 | Day 20 – Daniel 6:19-21 |
| Day 5 – Genesis 12:1-4 | Day 21 – Daniel 6:22-23 |
| Day 6 – Genesis 18:22-26 | Day 22 – John 3:27-30 |
| Day 7 – Genesis 22:5-8 | Day 23 – Matthew 11:2-6 |
| Day 8 – 1 Samuel 17:31-33 | Day 24 – Matthew 14:28-33 |
| Day 9 – 1 Samuel 17:34-37 | Day 25 – John 6:66-69 |
| Day 10 – 1 Samuel 17:41-44 | Day 26 – Acts 4:18-21 |
| Day 11 – 1 Samuel 17:45-47 | Day 27 – Acts 7:54-60 |
| Day 12 – 1 Samuel 17:48-50 | Day 28 – Acts 9:4-9 |
| Day 13 – 1 Kings 18:22-24 | Day 29 – Acts 14:19-22 |
| Day 14 – 1 Kings 18:26-27 and 29 | Day 30 – 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 |
| Day 15 – 1 Kings 18:31-35 | Day 31 – 2 Corinthians 11:28-30 |
| Day 16 – 1 Kings 18:36-39 | |

Questions to Ask: What actions do these men take that they are commended for? If you know about the other stories of their lives, are they without flaw? How do trials fit into their stories? What makes a hero?

Gossip

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“Speak only well of people and you need never whisper.” —Unknown

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| Day 1 – Exodus 23:1-3 | Day 17 – Proverbs 26:20-26 |
| Day 2 – Leviticus 19:15-18 | Day 18 – Matthew 12:35-37 |
| Day 3 – Psalm 15:1-5 | Day 19 – John 7:10-13 |
| Day 4 – Psalm 41:4-7 | Day 20 – Ephesians 4:29-32 |
| Day 5 – Psalm 50:19-21 | Day 21 – 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 |
| Day 6 – Psalm 57:4 and 58:6-7 | Day 22 – 1 Timothy 5:13-15 |
| Day 7 – Psalm 101:5-7 | Day 23 – Titus 3:1-3 |
| Day 8 – Psalm 109:3-5 | Day 24 – James 1:26-27 |
| Day 9 – Psalm 119:69-72 | Day 25 – James 3:1-3 |
| Day 10 – Proverbs 6:16-19 | Day 26 – James 3:4-6 |
| Day 11 – Proverbs 10:18-21 | Day 27 – James 3:7-12 |
| Day 12 – Proverbs 11:9 and 12:13 | Day 28 – 1 John 2:9-11 |
| Day 13 – Proverbs 16:27-28 | Day 29 – 1 John 3:14-16 |
| Day 14 – Proverbs 18:6-8 | Day 30 – 1 John 4:18-21 |
| Day 15 – Proverbs 20:19-20 | |
| Day 16 – Proverbs 25:7b-10 | |

Questions to Ask: How is gossip described in God’s Word? How is gossip a form of hate? Of murder? What should we do when spoken ill of?

Suffering

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"Suffering provides the gym equipment on which my faith can be exercised." —Joni Eareckson Tada

Day 1 – Deuteronomy 8:2-3
Day 2 – Job 1:18-22
Day 3 – Job 2:7-10
Day 4 – Job 42:1-6
Day 5 – Psalm 27:11-14
Day 6 – Psalm 34:15-18
Day 7 – Psalm 34:19-22
Day 8 – Psalm 73:23-26
Day 9 – Psalm 91:14-16
Day 10 – Psalm 119:67 and 71
Day 11 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Day 12 – Isaiah 61:1-3
Day 13 – John 9:1-3
Day 14 – John 16:20-22
Day 15 – John 16:32-33
Day 16 – Romans 5:3-5

Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 1:3-6
Day 18 – 2 Corinthians 4:7-11
Day 19 – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
Day 20 – 2 Corinthians 12:7-8
Day 21 – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Day 22 – Hebrews 12:7-9
Day 23 – Hebrews 12:10-11
Day 24 – James 1:2-4
Day 25 – 1 Peter 1:6-9
Day 26 – 1 Peter 2:19-21
Day 27 – 1 Peter 4:12-14
Day 28 – 1 Peter 4:15-19
Day 29 – 1 Peter 5:6-8
Day 30 – 1 Peter 5:9-11
Day 31 – Revelation 21:4-6

Questions to Ask: What are the different types of suffering mentioned? How does suffering change us? What should we do in the midst of our trials? Why does God allow suffering?

Jealousy

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"Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own." —Harold Coffin

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| Day 1 – Genesis 4:3-6 | Day 17 – 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 |
| Day 2 – Genesis 37:3-5 | Day 18 – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 |
| Day 3 – Genesis 37:18-20 | Day 19 – 2 Corinthians 11:1-3 |
| Day 4 – Exodus 20:4-6 | Day 20 – Galatians 5:14-15 |
| Day 5 – 1 Samuel 1:1-5 | Day 21 – Galatians 5:18-21 |
| Day 6 – 1 Samuel 1:6-8 | Day 22 – Philippians 1:14-16 |
| Day 7 – 1 Samuel 1:9-11 | Day 23 – Philippians 2:3-4 |
| Day 8 – 1 Samuel 18:6-9 | Day 24 – Philippians 2:5-7 |
| Day 9 – 1 Samuel 18:10-12 | Day 25 – Philippians 2:8-11 |
| Day 10 – 1 Samuel 18:13-16 | Day 26 – 1 Timothy 6:3-6 |
| Day 11 – 1 Samuel 19:1-4 | Day 27 – 1 Timothy 6:7-10 |
| Day 12 – Proverbs 6:34-35 | Day 28 – Hebrews 13:5-6 |
| Day 13 – Proverbs 14:30 and 27:4 | Day 29 – James 3:14-16 |
| Day 14 – Mark 7:21-23 | Day 30 – James 4:1-3 |
| Day 15 – Mark 15:8-13 | Day 31 – 1 Peter 2:1-3 |
| Day 16 – Acts 7:9-10 | |

Questions to Ask: What does jealousy do to relationships? Why is God a jealous God and how is His jealousy different from the human version? How is jealousy a form of insecurity?

The Teachings of Jesus

{Sermon on the Mount}

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"And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching..." —Matthew 7:28

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| Day 1 – Matthew 5:1-6 | Day 17 – Matthew 6:16-18 |
| Day 2 – Matthew 5:7-12 | Day 18 – Matthew 6:19-21 |
| Day 3 – Matthew 5:13-16 | Day 19 – Matthew 6:22-24 |
| Day 4 – Matthew 5:17-20 | Day 20 – Matthew 6:25-27 |
| Day 5 – Matthew 5:21-22 | Day 21 – Matthew 6:28-30 |
| Day 6 – Matthew 5:23-26 | Day 22 – Matthew 6:31-34 |
| Day 7 – Matthew 5:27-30 | Day 23 – Matthew 7:1-6 |
| Day 8 – Matthew 5:31-32 | Day 24 – Matthew 7:7-11 |
| Day 9 – Matthew 5:33-37 | Day 25 – Matthew 7:12-14 |
| Day 10 – Matthew 5:38-42 | Day 26 – Matthew 7:15-20 |
| Day 11 – Matthew 5:43-45 | Day 27 – Matthew 7:21-23 |
| Day 12 – Matthew 5:46-48 | Day 28 – Matthew 7:24-25 |
| Day 13 – Matthew 6:1-4 | Day 29 – Matthew 7:26-27 |
| Day 14 – Matthew 6:5-6 | Day 30 – Matthew 7:28-29 |
| Day 15 – Matthew 6:7-10 | |
| Day 16 – Matthew 6:11-15 | |

Questions to Ask: Which teachings strike you the most? Which ones do you need to incorporate more into your life?

Friendship

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“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” —John 15:13

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| Day 1 – Exodus 33:11 and 34:29 | Day 17 – John 15:12-14 |
| Day 2 – Exodus 34:34-35 | Day 18 – John 15: 15-17 |
| Day 3 – Ruth 1:16-17 | Day 19 – Romans 12:9-11 |
| Day 4 – 1 Samuel 18:1-4 | Day 20 – Romans 12:14-16 |
| Day 5 – Job 2:11-13 | Day 21 – Romans 12:17-19 |
| Day 6 – Psalm 55:12-14 | Day 22 – 1 Corinthians 15:33 |
| Day 7 – Proverbs 13:20 and 18:24 | Day 23 – Philippians 2:3-4 |
| Day 8 – Proverbs 22:24-25 | Day 24 – Philippians 2:5-8 |
| Day 9 – Proverbs 27:5-6 | Day 25 – Colossians 3:12-14 |
| Day 10 – Proverbs 27:17-19 | Day 26 – Hebrews 10:24-25 |
| Day 11 – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 | Day 27 – James 1:26-27 |
| Day 12 – Ecclesiastes 4:11-12 | Day 28 – 1 Peter 4:8-11 |
| Day 13 – Matthew 18:15-17 | Day 29 – 1 John 3:16-18 |
| Day 14 – Mark 12:30-31 | Day 30 – 1 John 4:7-11 |
| Day 15 – Luke 6:32-36 | Day 31 – 1 John 4:20-21 |
| Day 16 – Luke 17:3-4 | |

Questions to Ask: How do friends influence us? What does it take to be a great friend? Should we be cautious when it comes to friendships? Why? What does it look like to be a friend of God?

Contentment



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"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." —Philippians 4:11

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| Day 1 – Job 1:20-21 | Day 17 – Habakkuk 3:17-19 |
| Day 2 – Psalm 23:1-3 | Day 18 – Matthew 6:19-21 |
| Day 3 – Psalm 37:3-4 | Day 19 – Matthew 16:24-26 |
| Day 4 – Psalm 90:12-17 | Day 20 – Luke 12:13-15 |
| Day 5 – Psalm 103:1-5 | Day 21 – Luke 12:16-18 |
| Day 6 – Psalm 127:1-2 | Day 22 – Luke 12:19-21 |
| Day 7 – Proverbs 16:8 and 28:6 | Day 23 – Luke 12:22-26 |
| Day 8 – Proverbs 19:22-23 | Day 24 – John 4:13-15 |
| Day 9 – Proverbs 30:7-9 | Day 25 – John 6:35-37 |
| Day 10 – Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 | Day 26 – 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 |
| Day 11 – Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 | Day 27 – Philippians 4:11-13 and 19 |
| Day 12 – Isaiah 55:1-3 | Day 28 – 1 Timothy 6:6-8 |
| Day 13 – Isaiah 58:10-11 | Day 29 – 1 Timothy 6:9-10 |
| Day 14 – Jeremiah 15:16-17 | Day 30 – Hebrews 13:5-6 |
| Day 15 – Jeremiah 17:7-8 | |
| Day 16 – Joel 2:25-26 | |

Questions to Ask: What is contentment? How is it different from gratitude? How can having contentment help us get through the hard times in life?

The Birth of Christ

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"The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God."

—C. S. Lewis

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| Day 1 – Matthew 1:18-21 | Day 17 – Luke 1:46-49 |
| Day 2 – Matthew 1:22-25 | Day 18 – Luke 1:50-52 |
| Day 3 – Matthew 2:1-3 | Day 19 – Luke 1:53-56 |
| Day 4 – Matthew 2:4-6 | Day 20 – Luke 2:1-4 |
| Day 5 – Matthew 2:7-9 | Day 21 – Luke 2:5-7 |
| Day 6 – Matthew 2:10-12 | Day 22 – Luke 2:8-10 |
| Day 7 – Matthew 2:13-15 | Day 23 – Luke 2:11-12 |
| Day 8 – Matthew 2:16-18 | Day 24 – Luke 2:13-14 |
| Day 9 – Matthew 2:19-21 | Day 25 – Luke 2:15-17 |
| Day 10 – Matthew 2:22-23 | Day 26 – Luke 2:18-21 |
| Day 11 – Luke 1:26-29 | Day 27 – John 1:1-5 |
| Day 12 – Luke 1:30-34 | Day 28 – John 1:6-10 |
| Day 13 – Luke 1:35-36 | Day 29 – John 1:11-13 |
| Day 14 – Luke 1:37-38 | Day 30 – John 1:14-15 |
| Day 15 – Luke 1:39-42 | Day 31 – John 1:16-18 |
| Day 16 – Luke 1:43-45 | |

Questions to Ask: What details of Christ's birth have you missed before?
How is the "story" of Christ's arrival different in the Gospel of John?